

scale of suffering. But I think it also is an apt phrase because it implies that there is a required moral response.

In the New Testament of the Christian Bible, it says that when we bear one another's burdens, we fulfill the law of God. So I ask you to go forth here, remembering that a happy heart is good medicine, too. Do not grow weary in doing this. Know that the sequencing of the human genome will dramatically hasten the day when we will find a medical cure. But in the meanwhile, there are millions, indeed tens and tens of millions, of people whose lives are riding on our common efforts. We can do this if we do it together.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:13 p.m. in the Rankin Chapel at Howard University. In his remarks, he referred to Belynda Dunn, chair, National Association of People With AIDS; Archbishop of South Africa Njongonkulu Ndugane and his predecessor, Archbishop Desmond Tutu; H. Patrick Swygert, president, Howard University; John Ibekwe, president, Nigerian Network of People Living With HIV/AIDS; and President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, and his wife, Stella. The World AIDS Day proclamation of November 30 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Statement on a Study on Tobacco Use and Lung and Bronchial Cancer Rates

*December 1, 2000*

A new study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the California Department of Health Services demonstrates that over the last decade, California's extensive antismoking efforts have resulted in dramatic decreases in lung and bronchial cancer rates. These new findings remind us that the lives of Americans are at stake, not just in California but nationwide, and that comprehensive tobacco prevention and education efforts can make a difference.

More than 400,000 Americans die each year from tobacco-related health diseases, and more than 80 percent of them started smoking as children. That is why my administration developed a nationwide plan to protect our children from the dangers of tobacco, and I have continued

to call on Congress to affirm the FDA's authority to implement this plan and take other steps to ensure that our children have healthy, tobacco-free futures.

The tobacco companies spend 10 times more to market their products than all 50 States combined are spending on tobacco prevention and cessation. California's efforts demonstrate the progress that can be made when States use comprehensive tobacco control and prevention approaches, as recommended in the Surgeon General's recent report, "Reducing Tobacco Use." Today I again urge all States to implement these effective approaches, because we must all work together to improve our Nation's health and save our children's lives.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders on Modifications to the List of Beneficiary Developing Countries Under the Generalized System of Preferences

*December 1, 2000*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

I hereby notify you of my intent to modify the list of beneficiary developing countries under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), which offers duty-free access to the U.S.

market for eligible products imported from designated beneficiary developing countries. Specifically, I intend to change the designation of "Western Samoa" to "Samoa," to reflect this nation's current name, in the list of beneficiary